



Evaluating SUN Community Schools Discussion for SUN Coordinating Council September 6, 2013

Action needed from Council:

Agreement on recommendation to move forward with an evaluation of SUN Community Schools.

Process:

Discussed at SUN Council and with three other researchers about range of evaluation possibilities based on intent and funding available.

Recommendation:

Conduct a quasi experimental evaluation using a matched-pair design. Consider Elementary and Middle School students matched with a like group of students.

Primary research question: Does involvement in SUNCs for 30day+ students in Elementary and Middle school impact academics and attendance? If so how?

Potential other evaluation questions to be addressed:

- What are the results for elementary age students?
- What are the results for middle school students?
- How do these students then fare in high school? (if time/resource allows)
- What do these results look like across race and ethnicity (to the extent possible).
- How does length participating in SUNCS impact outcomes?
- What do these results indicate for program changes (if any)?

Next Steps:

- Discuss potential data needs with individual school districts, and MESD to determine how best to approach the matched-pair process.
- Conduct Contractor Selection process to identify a research entity to conduct the evaluation.
- Refine scope of the work with selected contractor.
- Begin the work!